

DIO NSO TLZ - Project Update 17 June 2014

It has been some time since we last provided you with an update on progress with the DIO NSO TLZ project. We, therefore, thought that it was an appropriate time to write and confirm the latest position.

As you may recall, a briefing session regarding the project was held in July 2013 and was attended by representatives of various local Parish Councils. The meeting was well attended and a number of queries were raised on the night, the majority of which were answered at the time. There were, however, some queries that could not be answered given available information at the time. Many of these related to likely construction activity and routes.

We subsequently confirmed that since the meeting in July 2013 the project team has continued to look at the best way of constructing the NSO TLZ with a view to keeping construction impacts to a practical minimum. The design and layout of the NSO TLZ itself has also been the subject of further technical review. These factors led to delay in progressing the project meaning that we have not been able to undertake any further stakeholder engagement to date.

The technical review of the project, along with the consideration of construction impacts, is now nearing a conclusion and this means that over the coming months the project team expect to be able to re-engage with stakeholders. We are aware that the summer holiday period is not an ideal time to carry out further consultation and, therefore, it is likely to resume in early September starting first with a further meeting with representatives of Parish Councils. Shortly after this meeting a public drop-in session will be held. Once this consultation exercise has been carried out, and consideration has been given by the project team to any issues arising, the planning application will then be formally submitted to Wiltshire Council for determination. It is currently anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in mid/late October.

Given that the planning application will not be submitted until later this year, it is inevitable that the timescale for constructing the NSO TLZ will slip. In the light of other factors that also influence the construction programme (e.g. likely weather, ecological considerations), construction works are unlikely to commence in 2015 even if planning permission is secured.

We remain acutely aware that there is much local interest in the project and we appreciate that the lack of progress since the July 2013 meeting may have been frustrating. However, we trust that this update helps and we shall be in touch again shortly regarding the proposed dates for the consultation events referred to above.

Regards

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